

MAR 12 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII SISTER-STATE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SISTER-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF GOA IN THE COUNTRY OF INDIA AND FORWARD ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE LEGISLATURE, PURSUANT TO SECTION 229-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, FOR FURTHER ACTION.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand
2 its international ties and has an abiding interest in developing
3 goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people
4 of Hawaii and the people of many nations; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Republic of India, one of the most diverse and
7 the most populous democratic country in South Asia, is
8 recognized internationally as the future of economic
9 development; and
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11 WHEREAS, Goa, the twenty-fifth state of the Union of States
12 of India, is a small state on the west coast of India, and Goa's
13 beautiful beaches and rich tropical landscape have made it a
14 popular vacation destination for national and international
15 visitors; and
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17 WHEREAS, as one of the richest states in India, Goa has the
18 highest gross state domestic product per capita with tourism
19 leading its economic growth; and
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21 WHEREAS, Goa is blessed with the Western Ghats mountain
22 range, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
23 Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, which runs through
24 eastern Goa; and in recognition of the biological, geological,
25 cultural, and aesthetic resources within its boundaries, Goa has
26 designated national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and reserve
27 forests; and
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1 WHEREAS, similar to Hawaii, Goa has an ethnically diverse
2 population, and its people are able to speak a variety of
3 languages, including Konkani, Marathi, Hindi, and English; and
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5 WHEREAS, in addition, Goa's people live harmoniously with
6 each other while practicing a variety of religions, including
7 Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Jainism; and
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9 WHEREAS, diversity is also evident in Goa's architectural
10 landscape with buildings showcasing a combination of Indian,
11 Islamic, and Portuguese influences; and
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13 WHEREAS, Hawaii and Goa are both coastal states with
14 diverse ecosystems, populations, cultures, languages, and
15 religions that value the economic growth and sustainability that
16 benefit all residents; and
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18 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 229-3, Hawaii Revised
19 Statutes, the Hawaii Sister-State Committee is tasked with
20 evaluating and developing recommendations for the initiation of
21 all sister-state relationships, and forwarding its
22 recommendations to the Legislature for implementation by either
23 adopting a concurrent resolution or enacting session law to that
24 effect; and
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26 WHEREAS, this body believes that a sister-state
27 relationship between Hawaii and Goa would promote mutual
28 commerce and trade in areas such as tourism and the film
29 industry, and would increase the prospective opportunity for
30 economic, social, cultural, educational, and environmental
31 exchanges; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Sister-
36 State Committee is requested to evaluate and develop
37 recommendations to initiate a sister-state relationship between
38 the State of Hawaii of the United States and Goa of the Republic
39 of India for economic, social, cultural, educational, and
40 environmental benefits; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sister-State
 2 Committee report its findings and recommendation, including
 3 proposed legislation, relative to initiating a sister-state
 4 relationship between Hawaii and Goa to the Legislature no later
 5 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 6 of 2016; and

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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
 10 State of Hawaii; Governor of the State of Goa; Consul General of
 11 India in San Francisco; Director of Business, Economic
 12 Development, and Tourism; and Chair of the Hawaii Sister-State
 13 Committee.

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